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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE COAST OF TALAULIPAS

The area in which this archaeological reconnaissance would be undertaken is the coastal section of Tamaulipas. More specifically, the area is bounded on the south by the F. C. Central Nexicano (railroad) between Tampico and Gonzalez, on the west by the meridian of latitude 0° 42' west of Nexico City (roughly, a line from Gonzalez to Hidalgo, Tamp.), on the north by the Rio Grande River, and on the east by the Gulf of Lexico.

The topography of the area indicates that a rapid survey might easily be made. For the most part, the region is composed of flat coastal plain; however, four small mountain ranges do exist. The Sierra des Jose Los Rosino rise in the southeastern portion of the area; the Tamaulipas Mountains extend into the area from the southwest; the Sierra de Los Maraines are present in the central part of the section; and the Sierra de Permabrones touch the region on the northwest. Only two rivers of any size run through this area—Rio del oto la Marina and the Rio del Can Fernando. Both rivers flow from west to east. In the northeastern corner of this state there is a swampy area. None of these topographical features should appreciably hinder the survey.

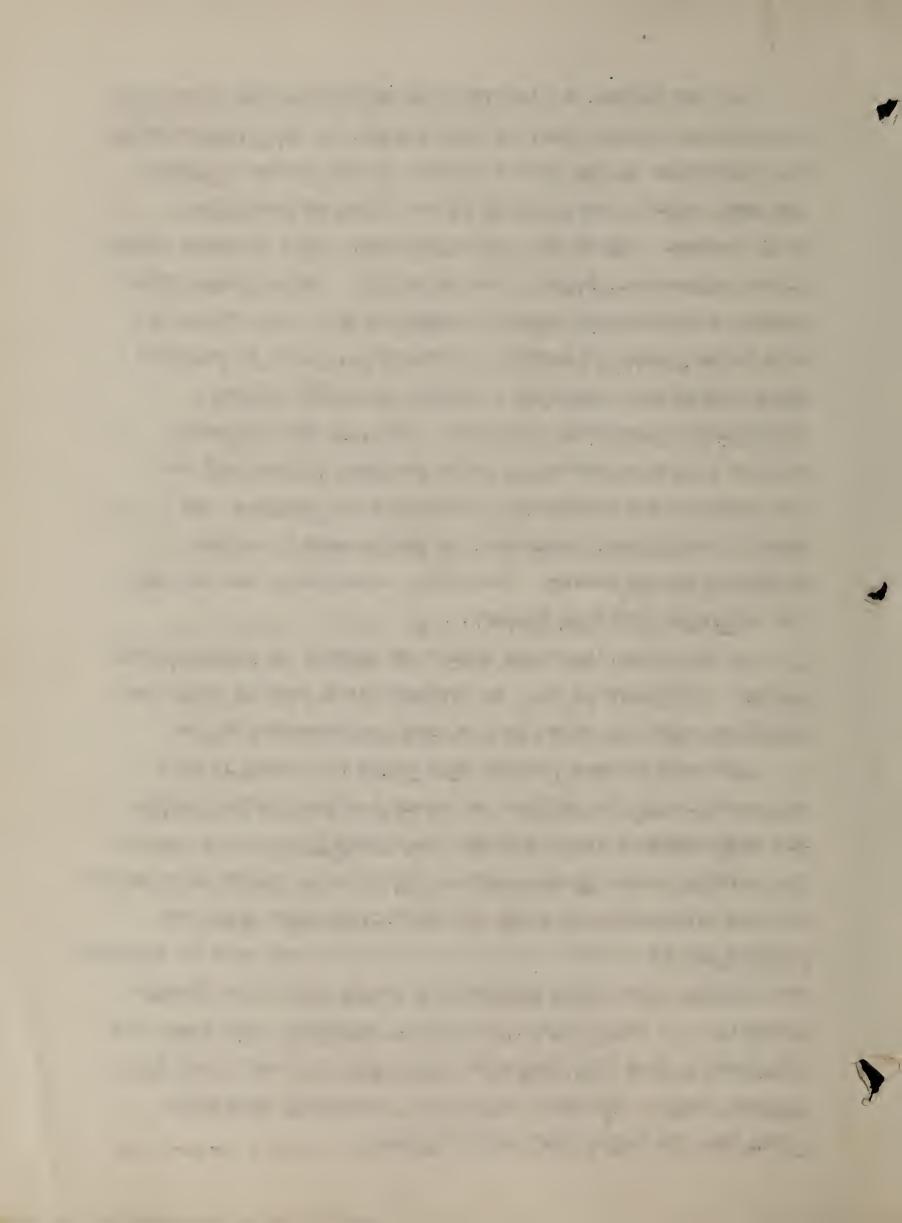
The vegetation lends itself well to a rapid survey.

As grassy, treeless desert, the country extends from the Rio Grande to the Rio del Coto la Marina. From Coto la Marina to Tampico the desert vegetation gradually disappears, and a semi-tropical vegetation appears. This southern tropical portion would be more difficult to survey, but is comparatively small, and since the area surrounding it is relatively well known, an extensive survey of it would not be imperative.

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As yet, the number of persons has not been definitely decided.

It would probably be best, however, due to transportation

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three persons. These three would be myself, Richard S. MacNeish, of the University of Chicago, one other graduate student from this university who has had field experience, and one Mexican (employed as a guide), either a student from the University of Lexico, or an amateur archeologist, recommended by Dr. Gordon Eckholm. In the final stages of the survey, when excavation is in progress, it would be necessary to hire twenty unckilled laborers, who would be supervised and trained by the three permanent members of the party.

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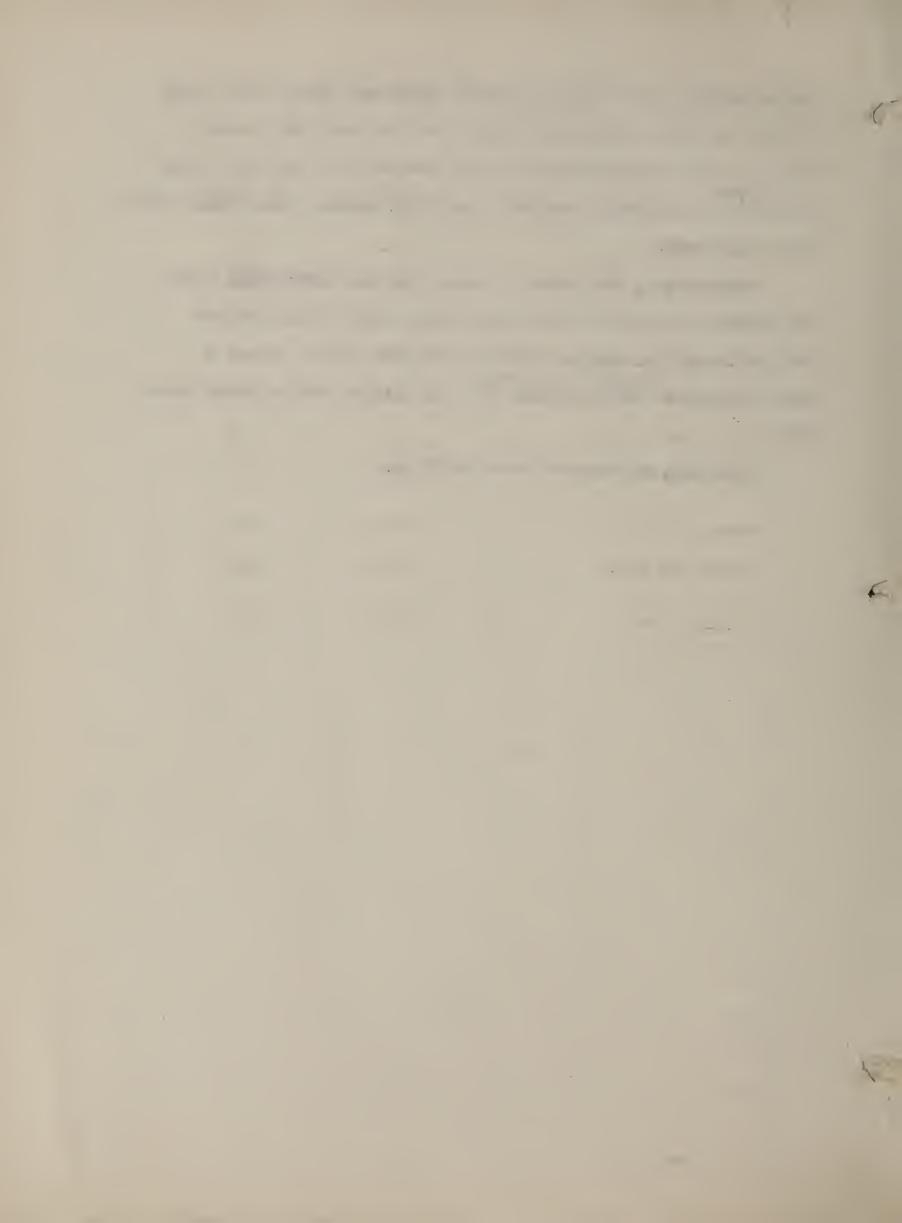
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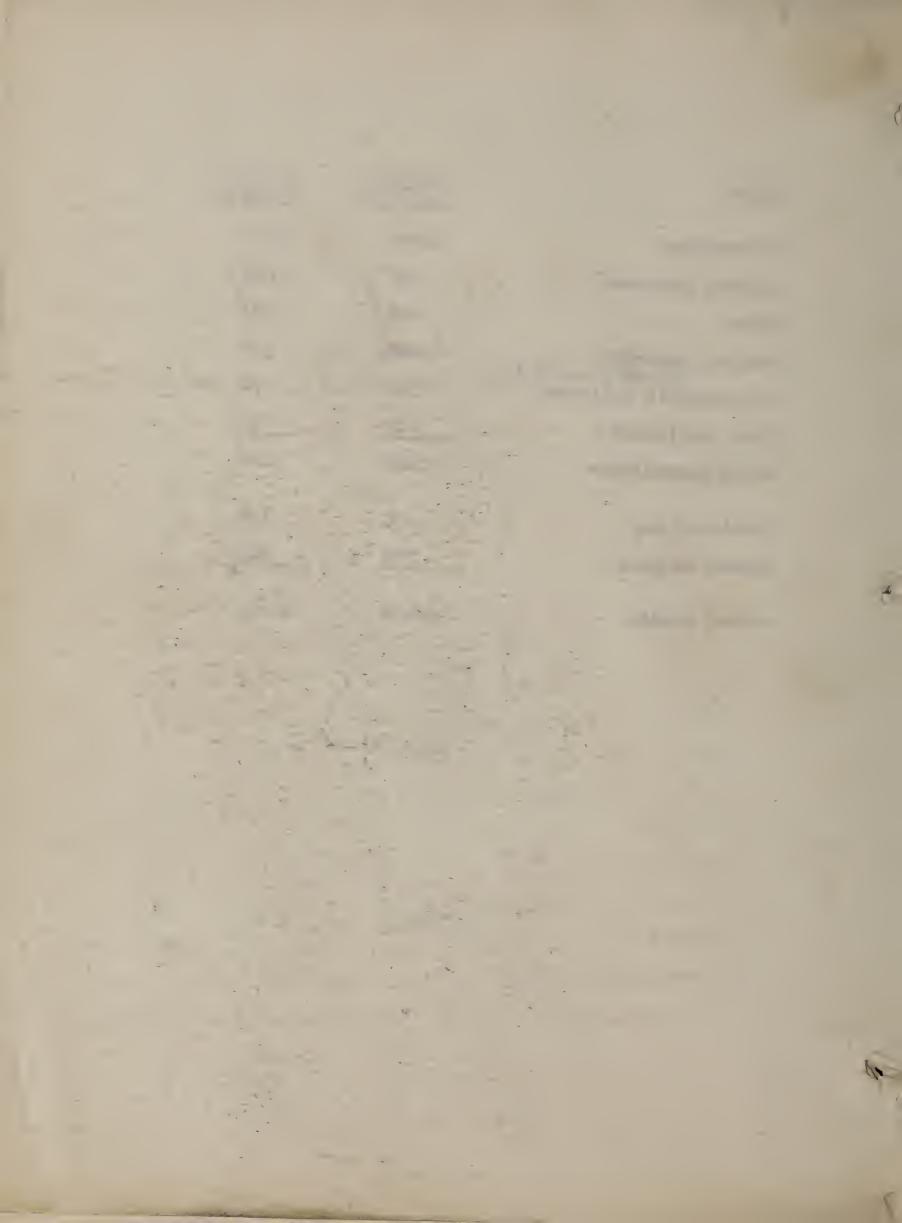
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A listing of the estimate follows.



ITELS	EXPENSE	MINIMUM EXPENCE
Automobile	\$1200	\$700
Running expenses	900	700
Labor	750	400
General expenses	400	300
(travel, analysis) Photographic equipment	150	75
Other equipment	100	75
Total expenditure	3500	2250
Resale of car	400	1.50
Amount on hand	500	500
Amount needed	\$2600	\$1600







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The topography of the area indicates that a rapid survey might easily be made. For the most part, the region is composed of flat coastal plain; however, four small mountain ranges do exist. The Sierra des Jose Los Rosino rise in the southeastern portion of the area; the Tamaulipas Mountains extend into the area from the southwest; the fierra de Los Maraines are present in the central part of the section; and the fierra de Parabrones touch the region on the northwest. Only two rivers of any size run through this area—Rio del oto la Marina and the Rio del fan Fernando. Both rivers flow from west to east. In the northeastern corner of this state there is a swampy area. None of these topographical features should appreciably hinder the survey.

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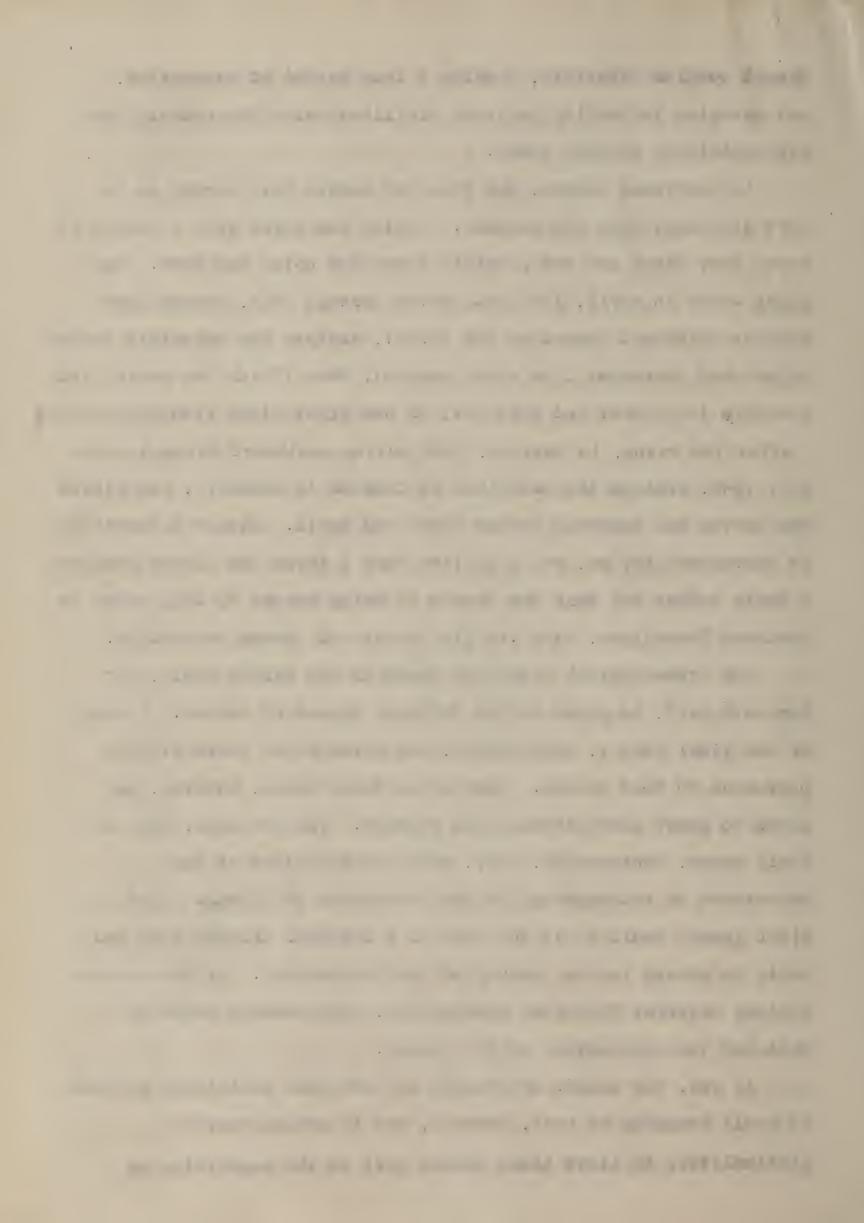
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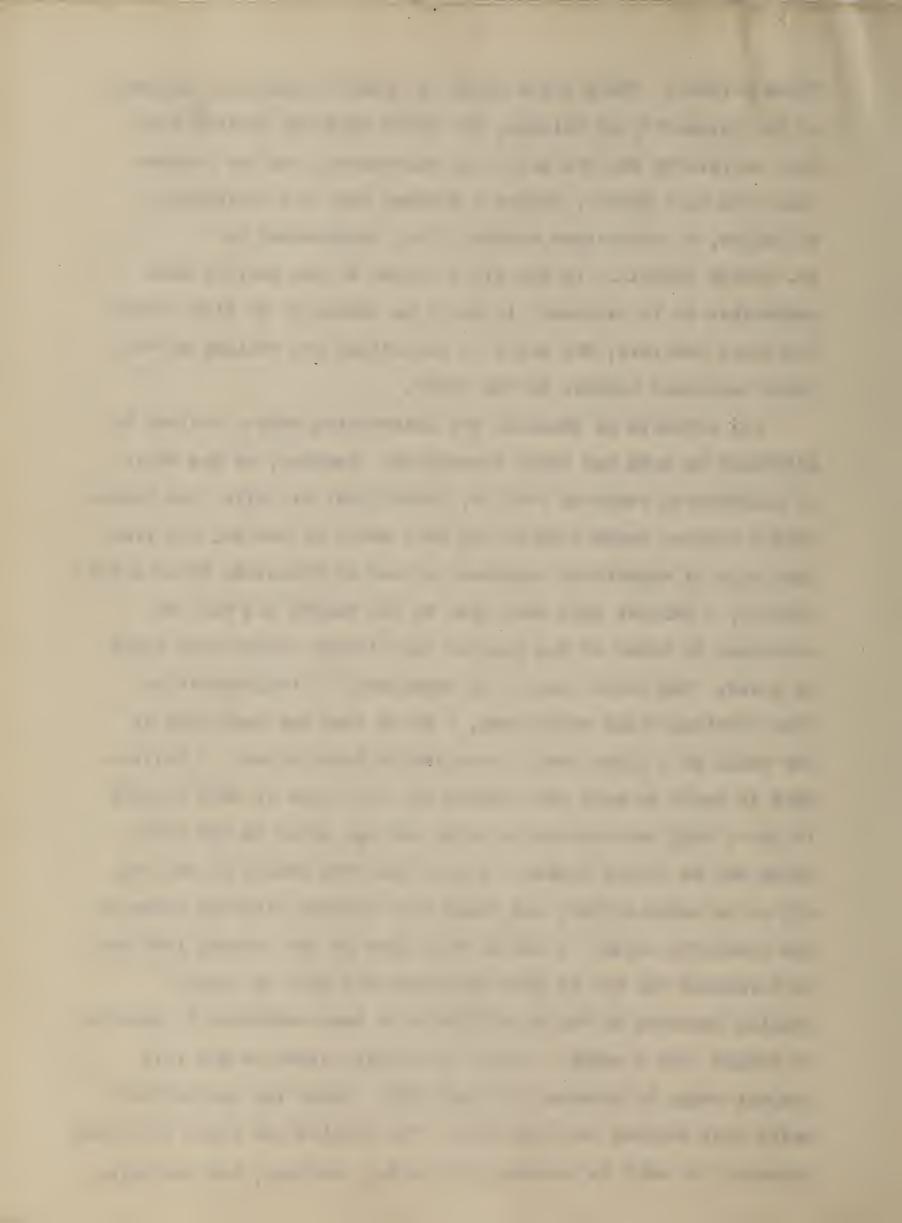
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Any estimate of expenses for undertaking such a project is difficult to make and often inaccurate. However, on the basis of information received from Dr. Eckholm and his wife, who undertook a similar expedition on the west coast of Mexico, and from knowledge of expedition expenses, gained by directing three field parties. I believe that each item of the budget can best be estimated in terms of the maximum and minimum amount that might be spent. The first item to be considered is transportation. From previous field experience, I think that the best type of car would be a light metal, panelled delivery waron. I believe that it would be most serviceable for this type of work because it has a high carriage and a large storage space in the back. which can be firmly locked; it uses the same amount of gas and oil as an ordinary car, and would also furnish sleeping space if the necessity arose. A car of this type at the present time can be purchased and put in good condition for \$700 to 1290. Running expenses of the expedition have been estimated by Eckholm at around 100 a month. Thus, the running expenses for this project would be between \$700 and \$800. Labor for excavations would cost between '400 and 750. The initial and final traveling expenses, as well as extenses for typing, editing, and analyzing



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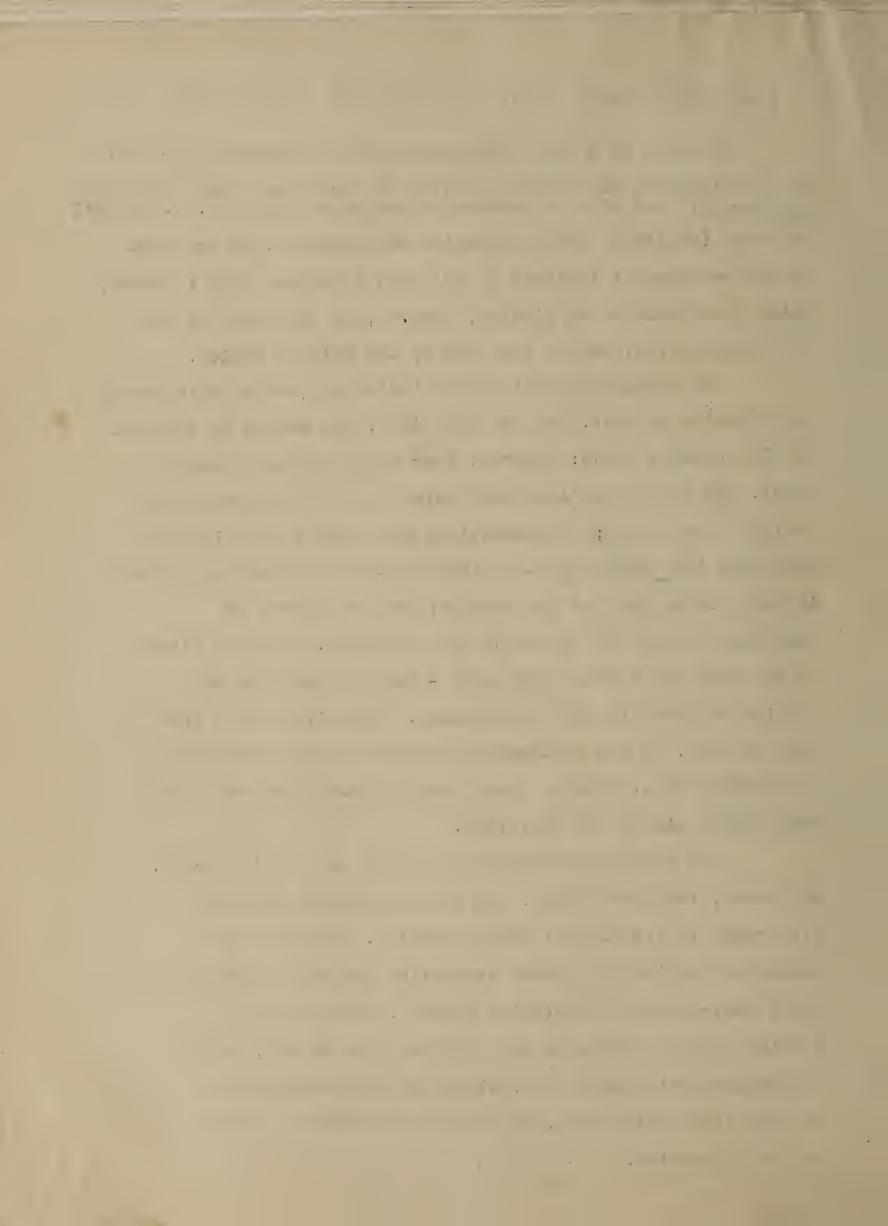
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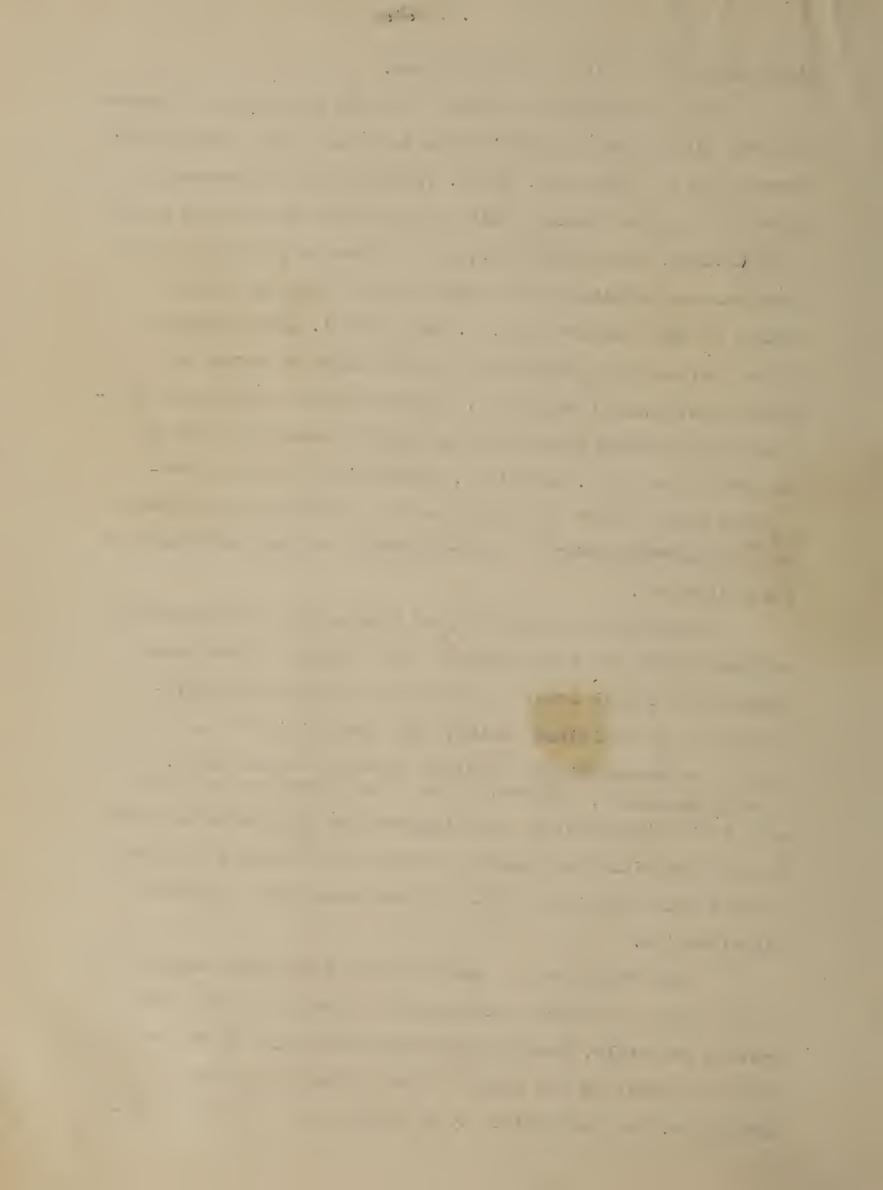
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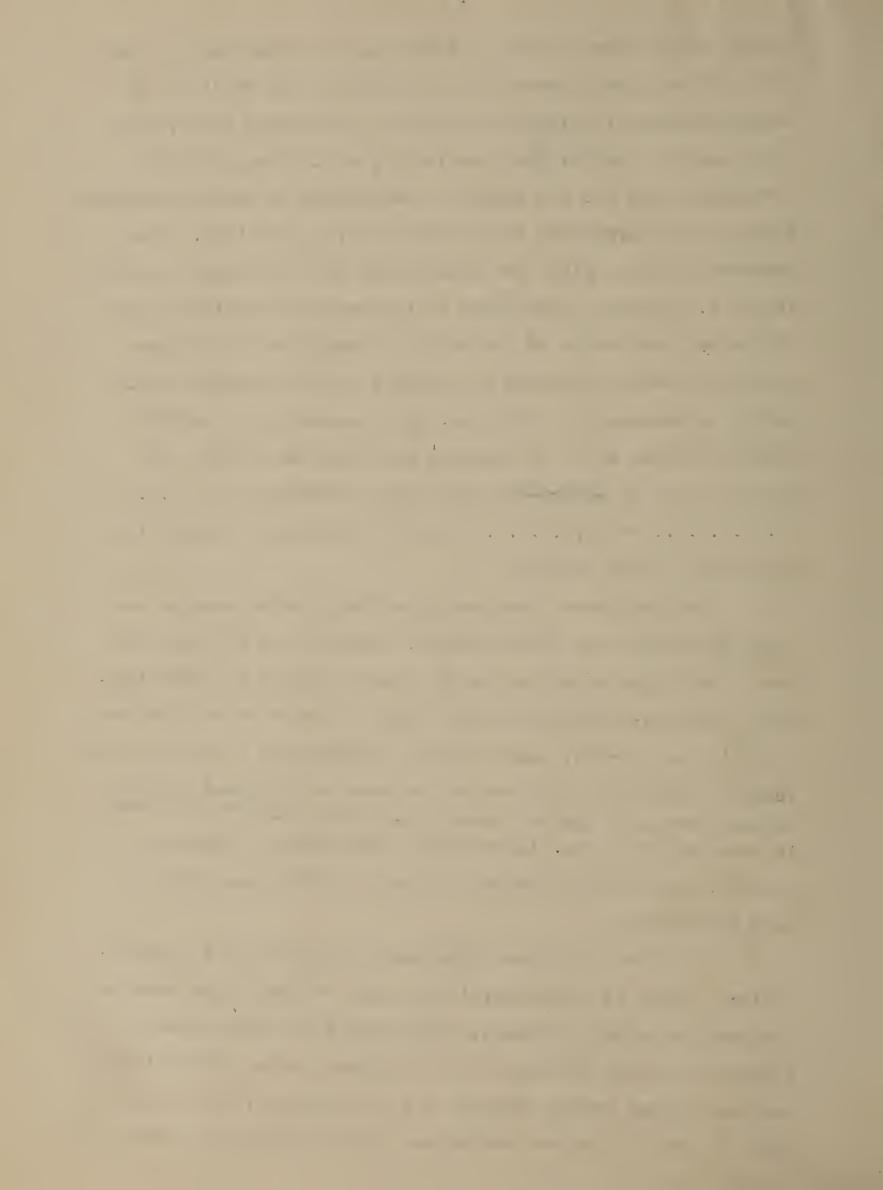
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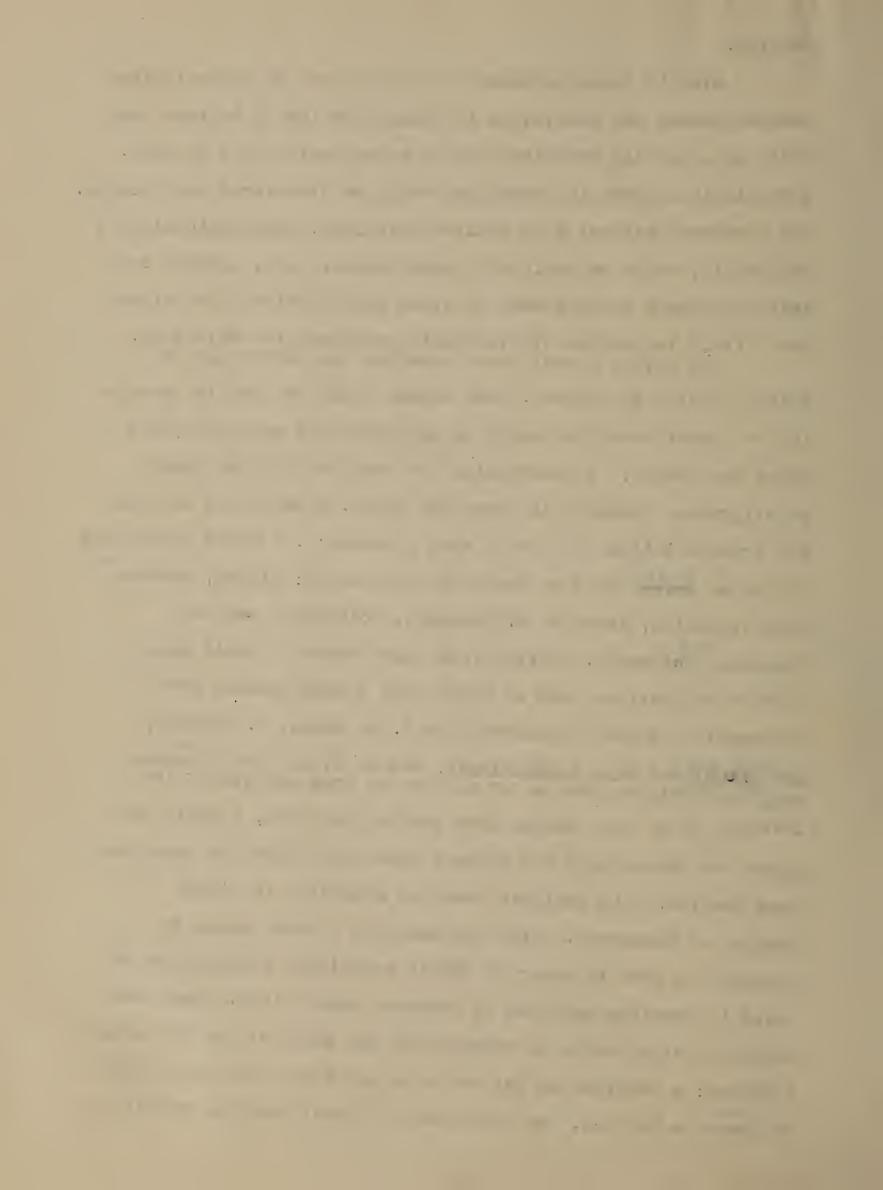


Tampico.

Even if these problems were not solved by archeological reconnaissance and excavation in Tamaulipas (and I believe they would be), certain contributions of value would still be made.

Archeological sites in Tamaulipas would be discovered and located. The northward extension of Huaxtec materials, geographically and temporally, could be definitely ascertained. Also, surface collections from a large number of sites might indicate the sites most likely to produce stratigraphic sequences for this area. The method I would use in making the survey may be

most likely to produce stratigraphic sequences for this area. briefly stated as follows. Four months would be used in surveying the area; about one month in analyzing the materials; and about two months, in resurveying the area and digging three stratigraphic trenches in three key sites. A car would be used for transportation (or horses when necessary). I would select the following seven towns as bases for the survey: Aldama, Esminis, Soto la Marina, Abasolo, SanFernando, Soldadito, and San Francisco, Matamores. Working from these bases, I would make surface collections both at sites that I have located from information, already received from J. H. Mason, G. Eckholm, from information given me by natives or from any other discoveries of my own. Having once covered the area, I would analyze the sherds found and compare them with Eckholm's materials from Tampico. This analysis would be conducted in either Tampico or Matamores. After the analysis I would again go through the area in order to obtain additional information of sites, if possible, and also to excavate three sites. These three excavated sites would be selected on the basis of the following features: a location as far north as possible (certainly north of Bahia la Marina), the presence of Tancol complex materials,



showing a long period of occupation, and ceramics indicating definite affiliations with archeological manifestations farther south.

As mentioned before, the time for making this survey is in part dependent upon the weather. Taking the rains into account, it seems that there are two possible times for doing the work. One might start in April, 1945, and survey through July, moving from Tampico northward (ahead of the rains), analyze the materials during August and September (the rainy months), then finish the survey and excavate in October and November; or one might start from Brownsville after the rains, in October, 1945, survey southward through January, 1946, analyze the materials at Tampico in February, and finish the survey and excavate during March and April. Either alternative is convenient for me, but I believe that I favor the latter because I would rather not take the chance of being caught by July raths in northern Tamaulipas, with its dirt roads and sparse population.

The archeological materials found in the survey would, for the most part, be given to the National Museum of Mexico. A A copy of the final report, photographs, and field notes would also be presented to that museum. Type collections would, however, be given to other institutions upon request. The raw data, such as field notes, phot ographs, etc. would be deposited at the Department of Anthropology of the University of Chicago. The final report would be in the form of a doct oral dissertation and would be placed in the library of that university. If the archeological material warranted publication, arrangements could be made for the publication of the thesis.

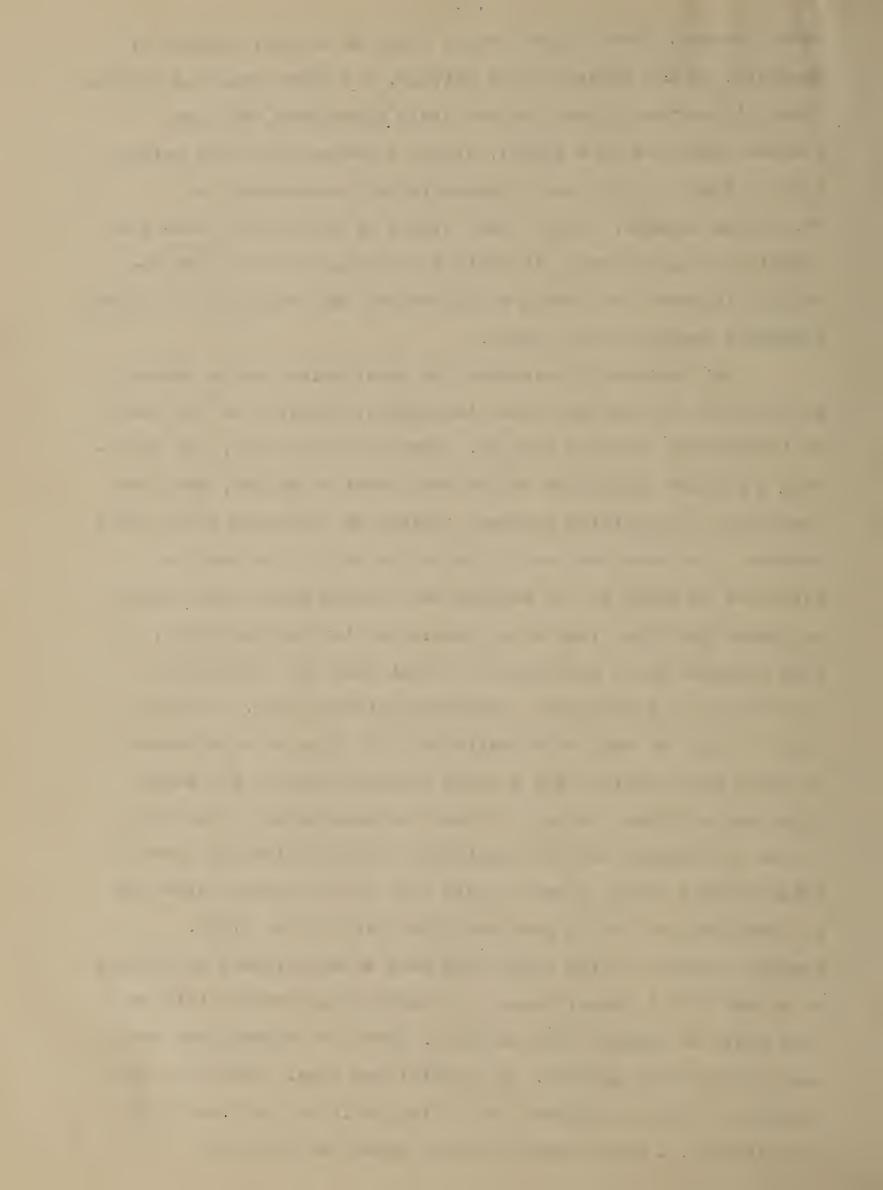
As yet, the number of personnel has not been definitely decided. It would probably be best, however, due to transportation difficulties, to limit those taking part in the expedition to



three persons. These three persons would be myself, Richard S.

MacNeish, of the University of Chicago, one other graduate student from this university who has had field experience, and one Mexican (employed as a guide), either a student from the University of Mexico, or an amateur archeologist, recommended by Dr. Gordon Eckholm. In the final stages of the survey, when excavation is in progress, it would be necessary to hire ten unskilled laborers, who would be supervised and trained by the three permanent members of the party.

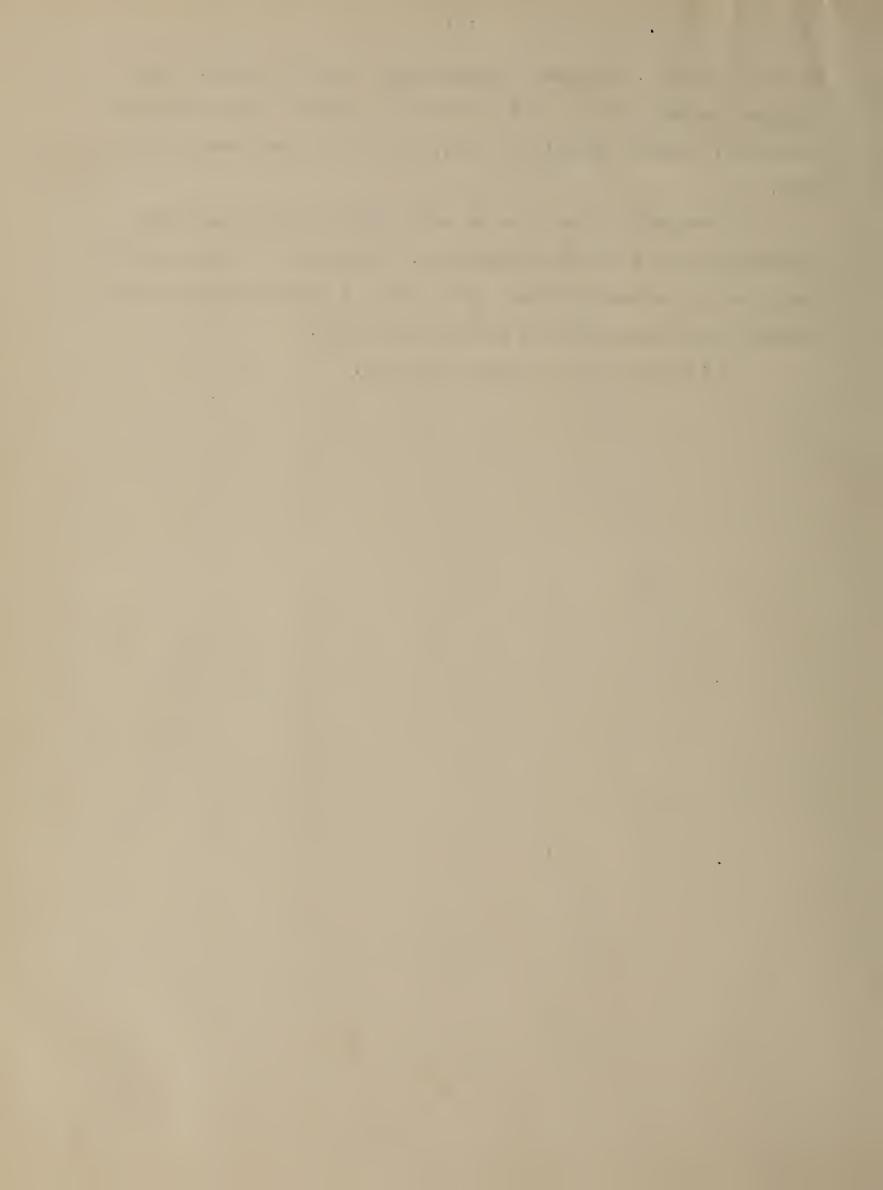
Any estimate of expenses for undertaking such a project is difficult to make and often inaccurate. However, on the basis of information received from Dr. Eckholm and his wife, who undertook a similar expedition on the west coast of Mexico, and from knowledge of expedition expenses, gained by directing three field parties, I believe that each item of the budget can best be estimated in terms of the maximum and minimum amount that might be spent. The first item to be considered is transportation. From previous field experience, I think that the best type of car would be a light metal, panelled delivery wagon. I believe that it would be most serviceable for this type of work because it has a high carriage and a large storage space in the back, which can be firmly locked; it uses the same amount of gas and oil as an ordinary car, and would also furnish sleeping space if the necessity arose. A car of this type at the present time can be purchased and put in good condition for \$700 to \$1290. Running expenses of the expedition have been estimated by Eckholm at around \$190 a month. Thus, the running expenses for this project would be between \$700 and \$800. Labor for excavations would cost between \$400 and\$750. The initial and final traveling expenses, as well as expenses for typing, editing, and analyzing the material, I have lumped together under one item, at a cost



of \$300 to \$490. Equipment composes the last two items. Photographic equipment would cost between \$75 and \$150, and excavating equipment, medical supplies, paper, etc. would cost about the same.

Fortunately, two sums of money may be subtracted from the amount needed for the expedition. The resale of the automobile would return between \$150 and \$400. Also, a contribution of \$500 toward this expedition has already been made.

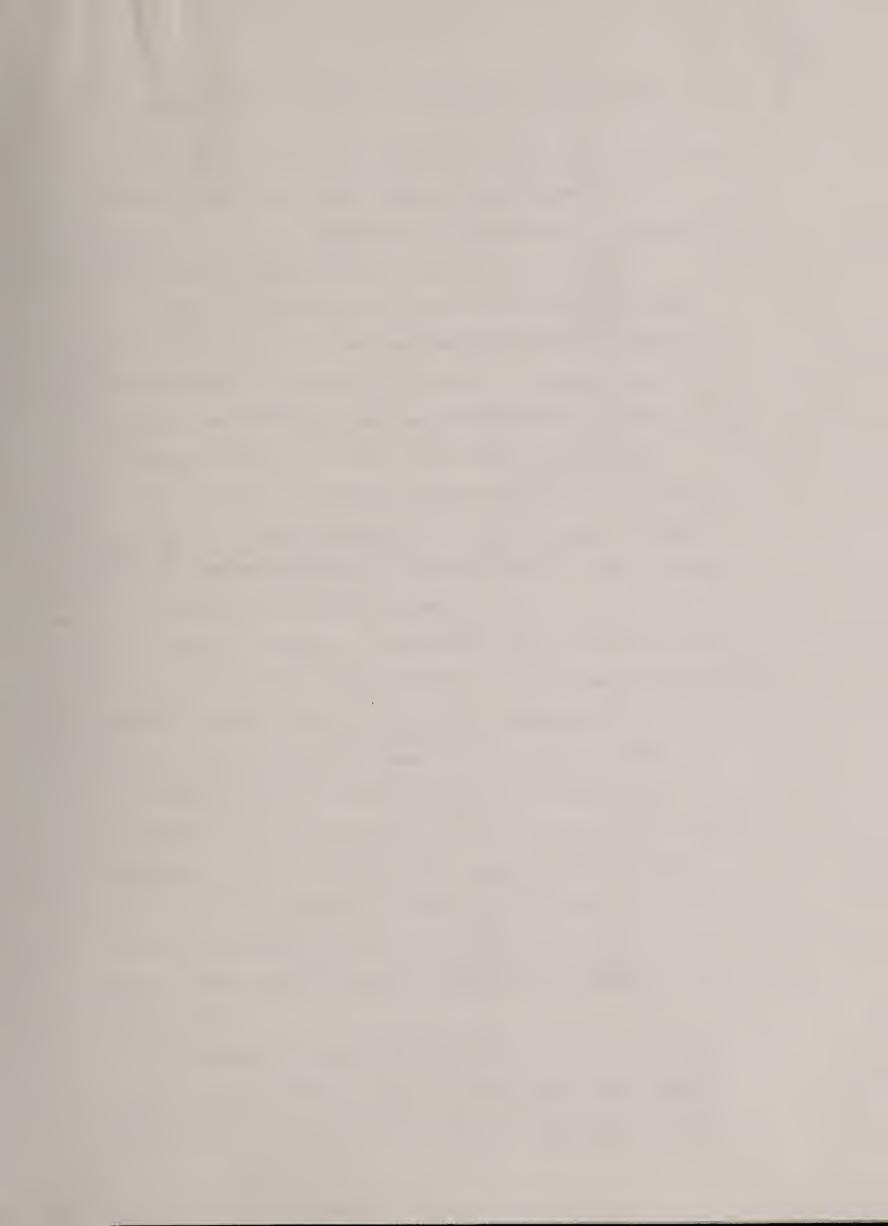
A listing of the estimate follows.



The following suppary will indicate the budget rather graphically.

ITEMS	MAXIMUM EXPENSE	MI NIMUM EXPENSE
Automobile	\$1200	\$700
Running expenses	900	700
Labor	7 50	400
General expenses	400	300
(travel, analys Photographic equipment	150	7 5
Other equipment	100	75
Total expenditure	3500	2250
Reselling of car	400	150
Amounton hand	500	500
Amount Needed	,\$2600	\$1600

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE COAST OF TAMAULIPAS

is to be undertaken may be generally defined as the coastal section of Tamaulipas. Specifically, the area might be defined as being bounded on the south by

F. C. Central Mexicano (railroad) between Tampico and Gonzalez, on the west the boundary of the area would be the meridian of latitude 0 42' west of Mexico City (roughly the area would be bounded by a line from Gonzalez to Hidalgo, Tamp.), on the north the boundary would be the Rio Grande River and on the east the Culf of Mexico.

The topography of the area indicates that it might easily be surveyed rather rapidly. For the most part the area is composed of flat coastal plain. However, five small mountain ranges do exist, the Sierra des Jose Los Rosino in the southeastern portion of the area, the Tamaulipas mountains extend into the area from the southwest, the Sierra de Los Maratines exist in the central portion of the area while the Sierra de Pamabrones touch the area on the northwest. Only two rivers of any size run through this area;—the Rio del Soto la Marina and the Rio del San Fernando. Both rivers flow from west to east. In the northeastern corner of this state there is a swampy area.

None of these topographical features should halt the surveying, appreciably.

The vegetation lends itself well to a rapid survey. As grassy, treeless desert, the country extends from the Rio Grande to the Rio del Soto la Marina. From Soto la Marina

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to Tampico the desert vegetation gradually disappears and a semi-tropical vegetation appears. This southern tropical portion will be more difficult to survey, but it is relatively small and the area surrounding it is relatively well-known. Thus an extensive survey of it is not imperative.

A factor as important as vegetation and topography in limiting archaeological reconnaissance is the annual precipitation. The statistics of the United States weather bureau indicates that the mean annual precipitation for a ten-year period was 33 inches. This is a moderate amount for a year, however, 75% of this rain falls in three months of the year, July, August, and September. During these three months archaeological reconnaissance in this area (which has dirt roads) would be halted. Fortunately, there is regional variation in the amount of rainfall, the south having considerably more than the north. Thus in the north of this area surveying might continue through all but one month of the previously-mentioned rainy season.

Thus it may be seen that the natural phenomena would favor the possibility of making a survey. Mountains, vegetation, and rainfall would be but minor limiting factors.

However, is the area important enough to warrant an archeological survey? I believe it is. My belief is based on the fact that certain very important archaeological problems have the greatest possibility of being solved by archaeological work in this area.

The most obvious problem that may be solved by making a survey in this area is that of ascertaining the culture relations between Middle American and the Southeast

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(particularily the Middle Mississippi phase). The cultural resemblances between prehistoric Middle Mississippi and the prehistoric Huaxtec (period V) materials have been pointed out by Ekholm and would definitely indicate some sort of cultural connection. That these cultural relations passed through Tamaulipas is very likely. What they were and when they occurred could be ascertained by working there. Also, Ekholm's hypothesis regarding connection could be definitely substantiated.

of eastern Oklahoma shows definite Middle American connections in its "Buzzard Cult" materials. If Dr. James Griffin is correct in believing that the Buzzard Cult is post-Conquest and that the Buzzard Cult of Spiro does not come from the east (Etowah, Moundville, etc.), then it may be very possible that some Mexican influences did come directly from the nearest source of that culture type. J. Mason and J. Anderson have shown that northern Tamaulipas was the nearest source of Mexican materials (Huaxtec). Exactly when these influences appeared in northern Tamaulipas and what they were is not yet accertained. Certainly knowledge of the northern Tamaulipas might assist in clarifying the problem of the Buzzard Cult and pre-Columbian or post-Columbian Mexican influences in the southeast.

Besides the possibility of late cultural connections between Mexico and the southeast, the ceramic resemblances between the local complex of Tampico and the Tchefuncte-Marksville of Louisiana indicate the possibility of an earlier Southeast-Middle American cultural relationship.

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However, the distribution of the Toncol complex materials, maturals and their distribution, further knowledge of the Tancol complex and information concerning the area between Louisiana and Tampico, Mexico, are certainly necessary if anything definitive is to be said concerning cultural relationships.

The problem of the correlation of the Maya calendar or Valley of Mexico archaeological materials with southeastern datable materials (by dendrochronology) is an important aspect in any study of any intermediate area such as Tamaulipas. The possibility of a solution of the Maya calendrical correlations by work in Tamaulipas is exceedingly plausible. Most of the pottery phases of the southwest can be dated by dendrochronology. Krieger in central and eastern Texas has found datable Pueblo, the possibility of finding similar materials along the Rio Grande in Tamaulipas (a shorter distance along a more accessible trade route, the Rio Grande River is very likely. Since Huaxtecan sherds, also, are found along the Rio Grande (according to J. A. Mason) and these in turn may be correlated with the ceramic sequences of the Valley of Mexico and the Mayan pottery sequence, it may be possible to find datable Pueblo sherds in association with them. By cross-dating of Pueblo datable ceramics with the Mexican and Mayan materials one might be able to ascertain which Maya correlation (12.9.0.0.0., 11.16.0.0.0. or 11.3.0.0.0.) with the Christian calendar is most likely to be correct.

However, the problems of prehistoric cultural relationships between Mexico and the United States are not the only ones that may be solved in the coastal region of Tamaulipas. Early Man (pre-pottery cultures) might be found in this region. The

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arid, arroyo-cut, sandy plains of Tamaulipas would not have totally obliterated his remains, as have the tropical forests further south in Mexico. Also, non-pottery cultures are found in abundance in Texas, in Coahuila (Basketmaker, reported by Taylor), and farther northwest along the Rio Grande (Big Bend Basketmaker).

The final problems that might be solved by archaeological survey undertaking in a peripheral area such as Tamaulipas have to be with pre-Archaic ceramic horizons. The possibility of finding such konyo cree is, at the werst, slight, but it is more likely to be found in a peripheral area where sites are smaller and refuse deposits not so extensive than in an area of more intensive occupation, such as one finds south of Tampico.

Even if these problems are not solved by archaeological reconnaissance and excavation in Tamaulipas (and I believe they will be) certain contributions will be made that will be of value. Archaeological sites in Tamaulipas will be discovered and located. The northward extension of Huaxtec materials geographically and temporally, can be definitely ascertaned. Also, surface collection from a large number of sites may indicate the sites most likely to produce stratigraphic sequences for this area.

The method I shall use in making the survey may be briefly stated as follows. Four months will be taken up in surveying the area, then I shall analyze these materials ("shout one month) and finally resurvey the area and dig three stratigraphic trenches in three key sites (about two months). Specifically the survey shall be made in the following manner. A car will be used for transportation or horses when necessary.

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I shall use eight towns as bases for the survey." These towns are Aldama, Esminis, Soto la Marina, Abasolo, S. Fernando, Soldadito, San Francisco Matamores. From these towns I shall make trips, making surface collections, at sites that I discover. am told of by the natives, or have already located from information received from J. H. Mason, G. Ekholm, Prieto 🕶 💁 Maya Archaeologie. Having once traversed the area, I shall analyze the sherds found and compare them with Ekholm's materials from Tampico. I shall make this analysis either in Tampico or Having made the analysis I shall again pass through the area, possibly receiving more information of sites, and also excavating three sites. These three excavated sites shall be dealine ites 2 " " vo" selected on the basis of the following: that they have Toncal complex materials, that their ceramics show them to have been occupied for a considerable length of time, that their ceramics show definite affiliations with archaeological manifestations further south and these sites are situated as) far north as possible (certainly north of Bahia la Marina)

As here been mentioned the time for making this survey is in part governed by the weather. Taking the rains into account it seems that there are two alternative times for making the survey: one might start in April, 1945, and survey through July moving from Tampico northward (ahead of the rains), analyze the materials during August and September (the rainy months), and then finish the survey in October and November; or one might start after the rains from Brownsville in October, 1945, and survey southward through January, 1946, analyze the materials at Tampico in February, and finish the survey and excavate during March and April. Both alternatives are convenient for the author,

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The archaeological materials found in the survey shall for the most part, be given to the National Museum of Mexico. A copy of the final report, photographs, and field notes, also, will be given to that museum. However, type collections will be given to other institutions upon request. The raw data such as field notes. photographs, etc., will be deposited at the Department of Anthropology of the University of Chicago. The final report will placea withe form of a be, the doctoral dissertation of the author and will be deposited that uniersity. in the library of that institution. If the archaeological material warrants publication, arrangement can be made for the 7年5.1. publication of that thesis. been defenitely decided. number of the personnel for making the survey has not as yet been definitely set up. However, I believe it best, (for reasons of difficulties, transportation) to limit those taking part in the expedition to mysells three persons. These three persons will be Richard S. MacNeish, of the University of Chicago, leader of the expedition, one other graduate student from the University of Ohicago who has had 'employed to aguidely field experience, and one Mexican, either a student from the University of Mexico or an amateur archaeologist recommended by Dr. Gordon Ekholm, to guide. In the final stages of the survey when excavation is being done, it will be necessary to hire ten unskilled laborers who will be supervised and trained by the three permanent members of the party.

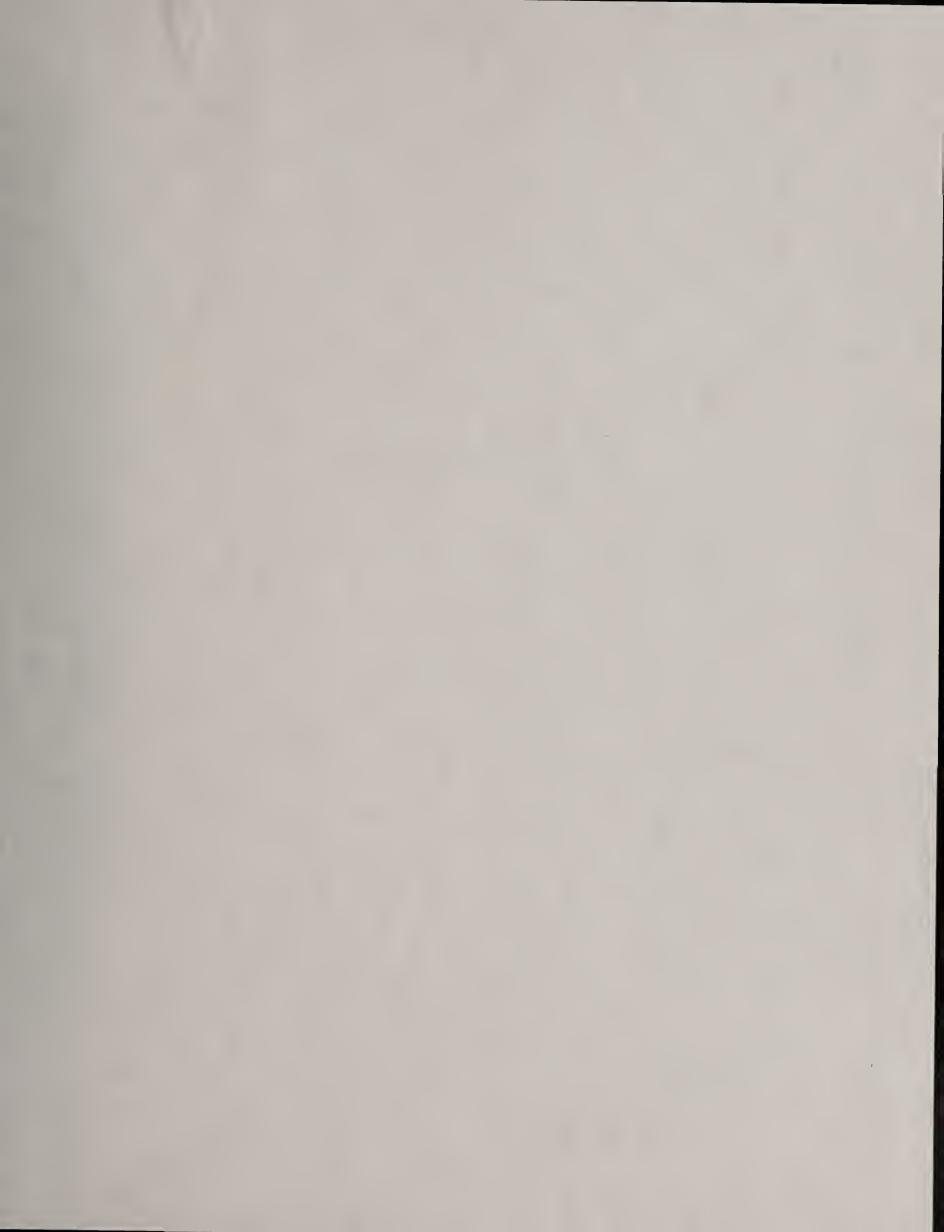
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